



Vox Populi . . .

ICRN President dislikes suggestion editor:

I read with interest your proposal of April 7 concerning a more unified ICRN, and would like to make a few comments concerning this.

First, I am definitely interested in hearing any ideas which would promote more cooperation between the two schools with regard to the operation of an FM station. Unlike many other FM operations, WTSC-FM is a student-operated station. (For example, St. Lawrence University is currently working on a professionally-operated FM station.) We have the unique situation in Potsdam of being able to draw on technical people from one school and knowledgeable music students from the other, in addition to just ordinary people from two schools instead of one. However, for one reason or another, this situation has not been used to best advantage.

One point of which you may be unaware is that there are some State students working at WTSC-FM. In fact, one-fifth of the 25 men and women working on the staff come State. And if more people from State show an interest in the station, there will be more State people on the staff, since it is a constant struggle to keep the station on the air 50 hours per week. At present, several members are working double shifts.

The problem, then, it seems, seems to be one of distance and/or school spirit. If one is interested solely in the programming as an art, then it shouldn't matter whether it originates from a building located at Clarkson or at State. Noting the amount of pedestrian traffic between Clarkson and State on Saturday nights, it seems that if the interest exists, then the distance is conquerable. (It is also interesting to note that the other radio station, WNTC, is farther away from the Clarkson dorms than it is from the State dorms.)

Another part of the FM problem is school spirit. If I had

arrived as a freshman to find the station located at State, I am sure that I would have been more hesitant than I was to walk in and find out what was going on. It has been suggested to me that the ICRN establish a studio at State for the purpose of sharing the FM program responsibilities while using one transmitter installation. This is an additional possibility, but could lead to problems including record library duplication (presently 1600 albums), equipment maintenance, and possible administrative disagreements. But it, too, is worth looking into.

On the basis of past participation in the FM type of programming, I am afraid that I cannot agree with your proposal to have WRPS buy WTSC-FM and move it to State. I suspect that there is more interest in FM here than has been shown, however, and I agree that the Inter-College Committee should investigate the whole situation. A more active ICRN would prove to be the strongest link between the two schools.

Sincerely,
Dick Harris, CCT '68
President, ICRN

PS: Would you please print a retraction of the statement that WTSC-FM makes money by selling its broadcasts of Clarkson hockey games to various commercial stations. This past year WTSC-FM did not sell broadcast rights to any commercial stations. In years previous, up to 15% of the total hockey broadcast expenses were received from commercial stations. It is illegal for a non-commercial station to "make money."

Just as a few points of information:

- 1) WNTC is not FM.
- 2) The ICRN must have all constitutional changes approved by both SC and SGA. A revision was sent to SC last year, and defeated.
- 3) Why would WRPS, having already ordered its equipment, want to buy WTSC-FM's equipment?
- 4) State students participate in WTSC-FM even though SGA

does not contribute to its support.

EDITOR'S REPLY: The editor did not mean that the income from commercial stations was over and above the cost, but rather that the costs were at least partially borne by such transactions.

We have copies of the proposed constitutional changes sent to the Clarkson Student Council last year (but not proposed to the State Student Government Association), and we maintain that they do not constitute "meaningful" changes.

The ICRN has not, in the three years that this editor has been associated with the Student Government Association's Finance Committee, asked for any financial support from SGA. Nor has the ICRN given the monthly financial reports to the Finance Committee as requested and promised.

As a freshman at State, and one with experience as Program Director of his high school FM station with a third class radio operator's license (since expired), this editor was very hesitant when he learned that the FM station was at Clarkson's dorms to walk in and find out what was going on.

Saturday night's pedestrian traffic has slightly more prurient interest than the aesthetic qualities of programming as an art.

Mr. Harris' suggestion of a studio at State seems to be a reasonable, and indeed responsible possibility; one which should be discussed by the ICC if they choose to cover our suggestions.

FORESTS CAN'T FIGHT FIRES



DISCUSSION:

"The Future of ICRN and WRPS"

Sunday 11:00 to midnight

Speakers: President, ICRN; Station Managers, WNTC, WTSC, WRPS; Editors, Clarkson Integrator, The Racquette.

WNTC — 6/40 AM

LISTEN!